

Robertsdale Hotel
(Rockhill Iron and Coal Company Hotel)
14 S. Main Street
Huntingdon County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5563

HABS
PA,
31-RODA,
12 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Robertsdale Hotel
(Rockhill Iron and Coal Company Hotel)

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Location: Main Street, Robertsdale, Huntingdon County, Pa.

History and Description: In 1911-12, the Rockhill company constructed a thirty-two-room, wood-frame hotel in the center of Robertsdale. The hotel served company officials when they visited the town, and as such, it received greater attention to architectural details than the miners' dwellings. In early photographs, it appears as a two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, clapboard structure with three wall dormers and a large veranda on the front facade.

A number of individuals served as hotel proprietor over the years, although the company maintained control over the operation. In 1948, Rockhill sold the hotel to Ernest Ross, then proprietor, who ran it until 1975, when he sold it to Jon M. Donaldson, the current owner.

In recent years, both the interior and exterior of the building have undergone extensive renovations, including the application of vinyl siding and replacement of the original veranda with a double-height, southern mansion-style porch; the underlying structure, including some of the original fenestration, remains intact, however. The hotel is the oldest non-residential building the Rockhill company erected that continues to function in its original capacity.

Project Information and Sources: This report was part of a larger project to document the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company towns of Robertsdale and Woodvale in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). For an overview history of the towns that provides the significance and context for this building as well as a comprehensive list of sources see HABS Nos. PA-5553, PA-5484, PA-5485. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in each town.

Project historian Lola Bennett completed the research and writing for this project during summer 1989 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian. Bennett's work was published as The Company Towns of the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company: Robertsdale and Woodvale, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990). Illustrations in the publication include 35mm photographs taken by Bennett; large-format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe; and historic photographs from the collections of Thomas L. Matthews, Kenneth Morgan, Ron Morgan, and the Huntingdon County Historical Society. The publication was compiled and edited by HABS historians Kim E. Wallace and Sara Amy Leach. Contemporary 35mm and historic photographs used in the publication as well as other miscellaneous research materials were transmitted to the AIHP collection at Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa.